

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 142

Introduced by Assembly Member Fox

May 1, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 142—Relative to the City of Lancaster.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 142, as introduced, Fox. City of Lancaster: solar energy.

This measure would designate the City of Lancaster as the California Alternative Energy Research and Development Center.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The City of Lancaster is a city covering 94.5 square
2 miles in the Mojave Desert region, also known as the High Desert,
3 with an average of 325 sunny days per year; and

4 WHEREAS, The City of Lancaster has been recognized by the
5 state’s California Solar Initiative as the city with the highest solar
6 generation per capita in the state, boasting 32 megawatts of
7 currently operating solar generating capacity and an additional
8 179 megawatts approved and planned for construction; and

9 WHEREAS, The City of Lancaster has established partnerships
10 with a number of private-sector solar development firms, including
11 eSolar, Silverado, sPower, U.S. Topco, Psomas, and others, in an
12 effort to foster renewable energy resources development and to
13 create green-collar jobs in California; and

14 WHEREAS, The City of Lancaster has partnered with renewable
15 energy firm SolarCity to establish the Solar Lancaster program,
16 which encourages and facilitates the adoption of solar energy by

1 residents and businesses through the use of innovative financing
2 mechanisms; and

3 WHEREAS, The City of Lancaster has incorporated solar
4 generating technology on virtually all of its municipal facilities,
5 creating a combined 1.45 megawatts of solar energy while saving
6 taxpayers an estimated six million dollars (\$6,000,000) over 15
7 years; and

8 WHEREAS, The City of Lancaster has partnered with SolarCity
9 and Lancaster and Eastside School Districts to construct solar
10 shade structures at 25 school sites throughout Lancaster, generating
11 over three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) in cost savings
12 annually for its schools; and

13 WHEREAS, Through the City of Lancaster's support and
14 promotion of clean, nonpolluting solar energy, Lancaster Municipal
15 Stadium, home of the California League Lancaster JetHawks,
16 became the first minor league baseball stadium in the country to
17 maintain a solar generating system that offsets nearly 100 percent
18 of its electricity use; and

19 WHEREAS, The City of Lancaster has been recognized locally,
20 nationally, and internationally for its commitment to solar
21 generation and renewable energy resources, with a wide range of
22 awards and recognitions including the 2012 Wolfgang Neumann
23 Energy Globe World Award in the "Fire" (energy) category, the
24 2013 Outstanding Public Works Project of the Year, and the 2011
25 Best Use of Technology by the American Public Work's
26 Association-High Desert Branch for its renewable energy projects;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Mayor R. Rex Parris announced in 2011 the city's
29 goal of becoming the world's first net-zero city, a designation
30 bestowed upon cities that produce as much energy from sustainable
31 sources as they consume; and

32 WHEREAS, On March 26, 2013, the Lancaster City Council
33 approved Ordinance 989, which requires that new homes
34 constructed on parcels of 7,000 square feet or larger must include
35 at least one kilowatt of solar generating capacity and, when that
36 ordinance took effect on January 1, 2014, the City of Lancaster
37 became the first city in the United States to require solar systems
38 on new homes in an effort to make the community more
39 carbon-neutral; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
3 hereby designates the City of Lancaster as the “California
4 Alternative Energy Research and Development Center”; and be it
5 further

6 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
7 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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